

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ERDA-05
ACDA-07 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 NRC-05 /063 W
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R 180857Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9633
INFO SECDEF
CNO
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT

S E C R E T BELGRADE 1028

EO 11653 GDS
TAGS: MARR MUNC OCLR YO UR
SUBJ: NUCLEAR - POWERED WARSHIP VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 031443 (DTG 111416Z FEB 77)(NOTAL), (B) USDAO BELGRADE
DTG 291411Z DEC 76

1. WE ENVISAGE FEW, IF ANY, ILL EFFECTS FROM AN NPW
VISIT REQUEST. WITHOUT ANY PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH
YUGOSLAVS ON THIS SUBJECT AND WITH FULL RECOGNITION OF
THEIR TENDENCY TO TWIST ISSUES POLITICALLY, WE STILL DO
NOT KNOW EXACTLY HOW THEY WOULD REACT TO SUCH A REQUEST.
HOWEVER, WE FIND THE KRSKO/NPW VISIT LINKAGE TENUOUS AT
BEST, AND ONE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO USE IF THEY WANTED
TO REFUSE REQUEST.

2. SIMILARLY WE DOUBT LIKELIHOOD OF US NPW VISIT SETTING
PRECEDENT FOR YUGOSLAV REPAIR OF SOVIET NUCLEAR POWERED
SUBS. NPW VISITS AND REPAIR OF NPW'S ARE TWO VASTLY
DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. WE BELIEVE SOVIETS, WHO HAVE ONLY
ONE OR SO NPSS IN THE MED AT ANY TIME, WOULD BE MOST
RELUCTANT FOR REASONS OF SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY TO ASK
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FOR NPSS REPAIRS AND THUS PUT ANYTHING AS SENSITIVE AS A
NPSS IN YUGOSLAV HANDS. FOR SIMILAR REASONS SOVS MIGHT
BE HESITANT TO EVEN REQUEST NPW/NPSS VISIT.

3. FROM YUGOSLAV POINT OF VIEW, THEY WOULD PROBABLY
FEEL COMPELLED TO HONOR A SOVIET NPW VISIT REQUEST, IF
THEY GRANTED ONE TO THE U.S. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT YUGOSLAVS POSSESS

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY TO REPAIR AN NPW. ADDITIONALLY, THEY WOULD NOT FEEL BOUND TO HONOR SUCH A REQUEST ON THE BASIS OF A U.S. NPW VISIT, SINCE THEIR SHIP LAW TREATS VISITS AND REPAIRS SEPARATELY.

4. AN ADDITIONAL COMMENT IS OFFERED ON THE TIMING OF THE USN PORT VISIT UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR JUNE. DUE TO THE LAST VISIT IN DEC 76 SLIPPING TO JAN 77 (BECAUSE OF, FIRST, YUGO REQUEST AND, THEN, OUR OWN SCHEDULING PROBLEMS) YUGOS MAY CONSIDER THAT WE "LOST" VISIT IN CALENDAR '76, AND THAT ER MUST ADHERE STRICTLY TO THREE VISIT PER CALENDAR YEAR. THIS WOULD MAKE JUNE VISIT TECHNICALLY THE LAST IN 1977. SHOULD YUGOS TRY THIS TACK WE WILL MAKE ARGUMENT THAT THEY CAUSED OUR LAST QTR 76 VISIT TO SLIP.

5. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES IN YUGOSLAVIA, PARTICULARLY REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP, WOULD LOSE NO GROUND AND PERHAPS EVEN BE ADVANCED IF WE OFFER YUGOSLAVS OPPORTUNITY TO HOST SUCH A NPW. CONSEQUENTLY AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, WE FEEL IT IS TIME TO TEST THE WATER.
YORK

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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